



New Jersey Farm Numbers Unchanged, Land in Farms Down

The number of New Jersey farms in 2002 is estimated at 9,600, unchanged from 2001. Total Garden State land in farms, at 820 thousand, is down ten thousand from previous year. The average size of New Jersey's farms is 85 acres, a decrease of one acre from 2001.

United States Farms and Land in Farms up Slightly in 2002

The number of farms in the United States in 2002 is estimated at 2.16 million, up 0.1 percent from 2001. The increase in farms occurred primarily in agricultural operations with \$1,000-\$9,999 in sales. Total land in farms, at 941.5 million acres, increased 170,000 acres from last year. The average size of farm at 436 acres, decreased one acre from 2001. The increase in the number of farms and land in farms primarily resulted from the inclusion of pasture only farms in 2002.

Number of Farms: Selected States and United States, 2000-2002

State	2000	2001	2002
<i>Number</i>			
Delaware	2,600	2,500	2,400
Maryland	12,400	12,400	12,200
New Jersey	9,600	9,600	9,600
New York	38,000	37,500	37,000
Pennsylvania	59,000	59,000	59,000
United States	2,172,280	2,155,680	2,158,090

Land in Farms: Selected States and United States, 2000-2002

State	2000	2001	2002
<i>1,000 Acres</i>			
Delaware	580	570	560
Maryland	2,100	2,100	2,100
New Jersey	830	830	820
New York	7,700	7,600	7,600
Pennsylvania	7,700	7,700	7,700
United States	943,090	941,310	941,480

Average Size Farm: Selected States and United States, 2000-2002

State	2000	2001	2002
<i>Acres</i>			
Delaware	223	228	233
Maryland	169	169	172
New Jersey	86	86	85
New York	203	203	205
Pennsylvania	131	131	131
United States	434	437	436

2002 New Jersey Acreage, Production, Price and Value and 2003 Planting Intentions

Barley: Barley planted acreage decreased by 1,000 acres from the previous year to 4,000 acres in 2002. Similarly, the harvested acres decreased by 1,000 to 3,000 acres in 2002. Yield was 74 bushels per acre, an increase of 20 bushels per acre over last year's. Production in 2002 increased by 3 percent to 222,000 bushels. The prices received by growers increased by 10 cents from \$1.25 per bushel in 2001 to \$1.35 per bushel in 2002. The value of barley produced increased by 11 percent from \$270,000 in 2001 to \$300,000 in 2002. Planting intentions for the 2003 barley crop is expected to total 4,000 acres.

Corn: Corn planted in 2002 totaled 90,000 acres, 70,000 of which were harvested for grain. Yield decreased 54 bushels to 58 bushels per acre from the previous year's yield of 112 bushels per acre. The decrease in yield lowered production by 3,332,000 bushels to a level of 4,060,000 bushels. Growers received \$2.75 per bushel for their grain, an increase of 66 cents per bushel from 2001's price of \$2.09 per bushel. The total crop value for corn for grain decreased by 28 percent from \$15.4 million in 2001 to \$11.2 million in 2002. Planting intentions for the 2003 corn crop is expected to total 80,000 acres.

Hay: All hay harvested acres decreased by 5,000 acres in 2002 to 115,000 acres from 2001. Alfalfa hay acres also decreased by 5,000 acres from 2001 to 25,000 acres in 2002. Acreage in other hay remained unchanged from last year at 90,000 acres. Yield per acre of alfalfa hay and other hay decreased by 12 percent to 3 and 1.5 tons per acre, respectively. The overall hay yield was 1.83 tons per acre. Alfalfa production was 75,000 tons and other hay production was 135,000 tons; the resulting total hay production was 210,000 tons. The season average price for all hay increased \$1.00 per ton from \$111 in 2001 to \$112 per ton in 2002. Overall, total crop value decreased by 18 percent in 2002 to \$23.4 million. Planting intentions for the 2003 hay crop is expected to total 115,000 acres.

Soybeans: Soybean planted acreage decreased by 3,000 acres to 100,000 acres in 2002, while harvested acreage decreased by 4,000 to 97,000 acres in 2002. Soybean yield was down 8 bushels per acre from 2001's yield of 31 bushels per acre to 23 bushels per acre in 2002. Production decreased to 2,231,000 bushels in 2002 from 3,131,000 bushels in 2001. The prices received by growers increased by \$1.35 from \$4.15 per bushel in 2001 to \$5.50 per bushel in 2002. The total crop value decreased by 6 percent to \$12.3 million. Planting intentions for the 2003 soybean crop is expected to total 100,000 acres.

Wheat: The 38,000 acres planted to winter wheat in 2002 was 7,000 acres more than in 2001. Harvested acreage was set at 32,000, an increase of 5,000 acres above 2001's harvested acres. Yield at 58 bushels per acre was 13 bushels per acre more than the previous year's. Production at 1,856,000 bushels was up 53 percent from 2001. The season average price of \$3.00 per bushel was 70 cents more than the price in 2001. The total crop value increased by 99 percent to \$5.57 million. Planting intentions for the 2003 wheat crop is expected to total 31,000 acres.

Field Crops: 2002 New Jersey Acreage, Production, Price and Value and 2003 Planting Intentions.

Crop	Unit	Acres		Yield per Acre	Production	Season Average Price	Value of Production	2003 Planting Intentions
		Planted	Harvested					
		1,000	1,000	Units	1,000 Units	Dollars	\$1,000	1,000 Acres
Barley	bu	4	3	74	222	1.35	300	4
Corn for grain 1/	bu	90	70	58	4,060	2.75	11,165	80
Hay, All	tons		115	1.83	210	112.00	23,430	115
Alfalfa Hay	tons		25	3.00	75	127.00	9,525	NA
Other Hay	tons		90	1.50	135	103.00	13,905	NA
Soybeans for beans	bu	100	97	23	2,231	5.50	12,271	100
Winter Wheat	bu	38	32	58	1,856	3.00	5,568	31

1/ Planted acres for corn includes acres planted for all purposes
NA = Not Available.

2001-2002 Corn County Estimates, New Jersey

County	Acres Planted For All Purposes		Acres Harvested		Yield Per Acre (Bushels)		Production (Bushels)	
	2001	2002 1/	2001	2002 1/	2001	2002 1/	2001	2002 1/
District 20 (North)								
Hunterdon	7,300	7,400	6,600	5,500	130	61	860,000	335,500
Morris	1,000	1,200	900	1,000	100	61	90,000	61,000
Somerset	2,800	3,100	2,300	2,500	81	45	186,000	112,500
Sussex	4,900	5,200	3,300	3,000	91	52	301,000	156,000
Warren	18,700	20,500	15,400	16,500	132	65	2,040,000	1,072,500
District 50 (Central)								
Burlington	8,700	10,100	7,700	8,200	106	73	820,000	598,600
Mercer	3,500	3,700	3,200	3,300	95	63	304,000	207,900
Middlesex	4,000	5,200	3,600	4,500	112	76	404,000	342,000
Monmouth	3,300	3,300	3,000	3,000	112	52	337,000	156,000
Ocean	500	700	400	500	95	52	38,000	26,000
District 80 (South)								
Atlantic	600	2/	500	2/	78	2/	39,000	2/
Cumberland	3,600	4,900	3,000	3,500	118	39	354,000	136,500
Gloucester	3,800	4,100	2,600	2,900	75	25	195,000	72,500
Salem	16,800	19,700	13,100	15,000	105	51	1,382,000	765,000
Other Counties 3/	500	900	400	600	105	30	42,000	18,000
State Total	80,000	90,000	66,000	70,000	112	58	7,392,000	4,060,000

1/ Preliminary.

2/ Included in with other counties to avoid disclosure of individual data.

3/ Other counties could have come from any of the districts.

2001-2002 Soybean County Estimates, New Jersey

County	Acres Planted For All Purposes		Acres Harvested		Yield Per Acre (Bushels)		Production (Bushels)	
	2001	2002 1/	2001	2002 1/	2001	2002 1/	2001	2002 1/
District 20 (North)								
Hunterdon	5,100	6,300	5,000	6,000	35	26	175,000	156,000
Somerset	1,600	1,500	1,500	1,400	29	17	44,000	23,800
Warren	4,800	5,500	4,800	5,400	46	34	220,000	183,600
District 50 (Central)								
Burlington	23,700	22,600	23,400	22,100	30	27	702,000	596,700
Mercer	6,300	6,800	6,200	6,600	33	27	202,000	178,200
Middlesex	8,300	2/	8,100	2/	31	2/	250,000	2/
Monmouth	7,200	6,600	7,000	6,400	33	24	232,000	153,600
District 80 (South)								
Cumberland	12,100	11,600	11,800	11,200	32	19	378,000	212,800
Gloucester	9,500	10,200	9,400	9,900	23	17	214,000	168,300
Salem	23,700	21,000	23,200	20,500	30	19	696,000	389,500
Other Counties 3/	700	7,900	600	7,500	30	22	18,000	168,500
State	103,000	100,000	101,000	97,000	31	23	3,131,000	2,231,000

1/ Preliminary.

2/ Included in with other counties to avoid disclosure of individual data.

3/ Other counties could have come from any of the districts.



A special **“Thank You”**
goes to New Jersey farmers
who have helped us by completing the
March Agricultural Survey.

Agricultural Prices

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in March is 99, based on 1990-92=100, unchanged from the February index. Higher prices for tomatoes, onions, oranges, and chicken eggs offset lower prices for cattle, dairy, strawberries, and wheat. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3 year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings for strawberries, tomatoes, dairy, and asparagus offset decreases for cattle, cotton, corn, and oranges.

This preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 7 points (6.6 percent) from March 2002. Lower prices for lettuce, strawberries, potatoes, and celery more than offset higher prices for soybeans, corn, onions, and broilers.

The Food Commodities Index increased 1 point (1 percent) above last month to 97, but is 12 points (11 percent) below March last year.

Prices Paid Index Unchanged

The March Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) is 128 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is unchanged from February, but 5 points (4.1 percent) above March 2002. Lower prices in March for feeder cattle, herbicides, feed grains, and feeder pigs are offset by higher prices for nitrogen fertilizers, diesel fuel, LP gas, and feed concentrates.

Prices Received, United States, March 2003, with Comparisons

Item	Entire Month		Preliminary
	Mar 2002	Feb 2003	Mar 2003
<i>Dollars</i>			
Field Crops			
Barley, per bushel	2.17	2.87	2.92
Hay, all, baled, per ton 1/	92.30	91.80	92.80
Soybeans, per bushel	4.38	5.55	5.58
Fruit, fresh			
Apples, per lb	0.22	0.25	0.23
Strawberries, per lb	0.87	0.88	0.61
Vegetables, fresh			
Corn, Sweet, per cwt	26.30	24.00	20.90
Lettuce, per cwt	86.40	10.90	10.20
Tomatoes, per cwt	38.50	29.80	55.40
Livestock and Livestock Products			
Beef Cattle, per cwt	70.60	74.00	72.20
Steers and Heifers, per cwt	74.10	78.10	76.20
Cows, per cwt	41.50	38.90	39.80
Calves, per cwt	105.00	97.30	96.40
Broilers, live, per lb	0.320	0.340	0.340
Eggs, all, per dozen	0.685	0.640	0.687
Milk, all, per cwt 2/	12.70	11.40	11.00

1/ Mid-month

2/ Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.